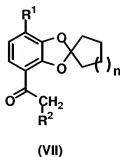


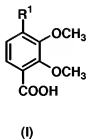
b.) Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative represented by formula (VII)



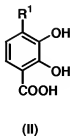
(wherein R¹ represents hydroxy, or substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy; R² represents substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group; and n represents an integer of from 1 to 6), which comprises:

(I) treating a compound represented by formula (I)



with hydrogen iodide to give a compound represented by formula

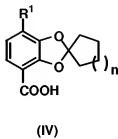
(II)



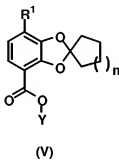
(2) allowing the resulting compound represented by the above formula (II) to react with a compound represented by formula (III)



to give a compound represented by formula (IV)



(3) converting the resulting compound represented by the above formula (IV) into a compound represented by formula (V)



(wherein Y represents lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group);

(4) adding a base to a mixture containing the resulting compound represented by the above formula (V) and a compound represented by formula (VI)



and (5) allowing the compound represented by ~~the above~~ formula (V) to react with the compound represented by ~~the above~~ formula (VI).

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative according to ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein the base is lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide.

4. (Original) The process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative according to ~~Claim 3~~ Claims 1 or 3, wherein the reaction temperature when the compound represented by formula (V) reacts with the compound represented by formula (VI) is between -10°C and 50°C.

5. (Currently Amended) The process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative according to ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 4, wherein Y is *n*-butyl.

Claims 6-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) The process for preparing according to ~~any one of Claims 1, 2, 6 or 8~~ Claim 4, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is a substituted or unsubstituted ~~aromatic~~ heterocyclic group pyridyl.

11. (Currently Amended) The process for preparing according to ~~any one of Claims 1, 2 and 6-9~~ Claim 4, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is methoxy.

12. (Currently Amended) The process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative according to ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 10, wherein Y is *n*-butyl.

13. (Currently Amended) The process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative according to ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 11, wherein Y is *n*-butyl.

14. (Previously Presented) The process for preparing according to Claim 10, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is methoxy.

15. (New) The process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative according to Claim 14, wherein Y is *n*-butyl.